



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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**CITY OF SAN DIEGO REMINDS RESIDENTS
TO RECYCLE HOLIDAY FOOD PACKAGING AND COOKING OIL**

Tips to Reduce Holiday Waste

SAN DIEGO, CA— Between Thanksgiving and the New Year the average San Diego household will generate between three and 10 extra bags of garbage that will end up in the City's Miramar Landfill. However, not all this material is trash. Hidden in that waste are many recyclable materials, such as food packaging and cooking oil that will ultimately end up in the City's Miramar Landfill.

"The Miramar Landfill has only about eight more years of useable life left to bury trash," said Elmer L. Heap, Jr., director of the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department. "By choosing to recycle, residents can help reduce large amounts of holiday waste that often end up in the trash and ultimately in the landfill. Keeping recyclables out of the trash not only conserves landfill space, but avoids potential State fines of \$10,000 per day for not meeting the 50 percent diversion mandate by the end of 2004. Currently, the City diverts approximately 44 percent of waste from entering the landfill through its recycling programs, but in order to achieve 50 percent San Diegans must recycle more," he said.

The following items used to package food can be recycled in residents' blue curbside recycling bins or at recycling drop-off locations at City Recreation Centers:

(MORE)

Recycle Holiday Food Packaging and Cooking Oil, page 2

November 3, 2004

- aluminum pie and turkey tins;
- cardboard cracker, etc. boxes;
- glass food jars used for apple sauce, fruit juices, preserves, jellies and jams, etc;
- metal cans used for cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling, green beans, etc;
- paper egg cartons;
- paper packaging and boxes;
- plastic juice bottles;
- plastic milk and water jugs;
- soda, cider, wine, champagne, beer and other alcohol bottles; and
- wine boxes with plastic bags, but first remove the non-recyclable bags.

The City also encourages reusing jars and pie tins to store and send home leftovers with family and friends. Vegetable wastes can be composted in your backyard compost bin.

Turkey bones and skin, or anything that can decay should also be placed in a plastic bag before disposing in the trash. If trash is not collected for several days, these materials can be bagged and frozen to avoid decomposing odors.

If residents plan on cooking with oil, the City offers a cooking oil drop-off location free of charge at the Miramar Recycling Center, located at the Miramar Landfill at 5165 Convoy Street. The Miramar Recycling Center is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Recycling Center is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. To contact the Miramar Recycling Center, call (858) 268-8971.

Cooking oil must not be poured down drains; if you do not bring it to the Miramar Recycling Center, this material should be absorbed with paper towels or newspaper and placed in a plastic bag before being disposed of in the trash. Liquids of any kind are not to be disposed of in your black trash containers.

For more information on holiday waste reduction ideas, recycling, composting or trash collection, contact the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department at (858) 694-7000 or visit the department's website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/>. For information about the City's Grease Disposal Program, contact the Metropolitan Wastewater Department at (858) 292-6484, or visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/mwwd/>.

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